

Communities of Opportunity Initiative

Community Progress Report
April 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010

Name of Community: McDuffie County
Date:

Local Champion:

Co-Op Strategies	List Measures of Success, (Or Barriers If Applicable)	Action Items Completed for Each Strategy	Cost Estimate	Provide a Brief Description of Issues and Action Items to be Addressed Next Quarter
Educate and get public interested in housing revitalization in McDuffie County	<p>Form Public Awareness Campaign Committee</p> <p>Research what other communities have done to advocate for housing and neighborhood revitalization</p> <p>Identify best way to educate and inform each target area</p> <p>Education Campaign in newspapers radio & door to door</p> <p>Morning radio shows</p> <p>Public service announcements</p> <p>Internet websites</p>	<p>Have added Partners for Success to Steering Committee</p> <p>Received \$800,000 CDBG grant for Multi-Activity work in Pitt Street area.</p> <p>Received \$390,000 CDBG grant for Senior Citizen Center Improvements.</p> <p>Cleared 11 acres of derelict businesses, houses in preparation for construction of City/County Gov. complex</p> <p>Cleared 7 substandard houses in the City Limits.</p> <p>Written articles concerning the housing effort for the local newspaper</p>	<p>Grant fund total of approximately \$1.2 million, including local match.</p>	<p>Pit Street CDBG project will get underway in 1st quarter of 2010.</p> <p>Senior Citizen Center improvements will start in 2010, 1st qrtr.</p> <p>Construction underway on Gov't Center Campus. SPLOST funded, total cost of approximately \$20,000,000</p>
Establish a Housing	Consider applying to	Developed Map of area to be	Housing Survey	Will start HSG survey in 1 st

Task Force	<p>become a participating community in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Program (GICH) Conduct Housing Needs Assessment one neighborhood at time Do an inventory to assess and identify the rental houses that are available in McDuffie County.</p> <p>Research how other counties have dealt with alternative housing options</p> <p>Conduct Inventory of Sub-standard Housing</p> <p>Identify which houses can be rehabilitated at a reasonable cost</p> <p>Consider Hiring a Director for the Housing Task Force Develop incentives for private investors to rehabilitate homes in targeted neighborhoods</p>	<p>surveyed. Out for quote by CSRA RDC Met prior (2008) with officials in Fitzgerald. Thomson is mirroring a lot of their programs, including using the Redevelopment Designation Currently are using the Community Development Director for this staff function</p> <p>Applied for GICH. Meeting with those officials at the end of October for site interviews. Received designation in November</p> <p>Have informal approval from DCA (through CSRA-RC) for funding for Housing Survey</p> <p>Will not Hire Director for Housing Task force at this time...budget constraints</p>	<p>to paid for with DCA grant through Regional Commission</p>	<p>qrtr, 2010</p> <p>Attended 1st retreat in Feb for GICH training. 10 Attendees. Developed short term work plan to complete before Sept. retreat...listed below.</p> <p>Having regular monthly meetings and will attend second retreat in Sept.</p> <p><u>Short term work plan (March – September 2010)</u></p> <p>Lack of Community Involvement and Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bring on at least minimum of 3 participating minority members (Ken to head, start date: March 12) ➤ Media campaign – 1 newspaper article per month (Renae to head, start date: end of
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				<p>March)</p> <p>➤ Neighborhood Associations in MLK and Strawberry Hill neighborhoods (Don to head, process has been in progress, associations to be set up by September 2010)</p> <p>Declining Neighborhoods</p> <p>➤ Develop Land Bank Authority (Dot will head, contact Macon and Valdosta within 30 days and have LBA formed within 6 months)</p> <p>➤ Formed and approved at July Council and Commission</p>
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				<div>Meeting</div> <div>➤ Visited Macon Housing Authority and had presentation at regular GICH meeting by Kirby Glaze, Housing Development Consultant, regarding our plan going forward.</div> <div>➤ Blight tax information (Kelly to head, process in progress)</div> <div>➤ Notify property owners of ordinances violations and code enforcement (Don to head, start date: within 2 months)</div> <div>Housing Stock</div> <div>➤ Complete</div>
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				<p>Housing Inventory/Survey (Linda at Regional Commission to complete, start date: April 1 completion date: June 30)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Completed➤ Input on Inventory/Survey form (Committee to provide input at March 10 meeting)➤ Mapping (Kelly to head, process in progress) <p>Landlords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Notify property owners of ordinances violations and code enforcement (Don to head, start date:
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				<p>within 2 months)</p> <p>➤ Research best practices of ordinances and code enforcement in other communities (Don to head, information will be presented at 2nd committee meeting)</p>
<p>Adopt and enforce Codes and Ordinances that support and encourage quality buildings</p>	<p>Develop standards for new residential infill</p> <p>Research other local governments' buildings codes, and standard building and housing codes</p> <p>Compare McDuffie County and Thomson's existing codes to the ones researched above</p> <p>Develop draft proposal for changes/additions to existing code & present to</p>	<p>In process...considering combination of enforcement activities of City and County.</p> <p>Adopted completely new City sign ordinance to start process of reducing variability and clutter, especially along gateways. Effective date is October 1, 2009</p>		

	<p>Leaders & Community</p> <p>Review & Identify Enforcement Staffing Options</p> <p>Adopt Ordinances or Proposals to include enforcement staff</p>			
Organize neighborhood organizations to maintain & improve properties for cleaner safer neighborhoods	<p>Develop Leadership in key neighborhoods to assist in forming Neighborhood Associations and Neighborhood Watches</p> <p>Develop initiatives to deal with drug problems in targeted neighborhoods (Consider Neighborhood Watch Program)</p> <p>Hold neighborhood meetings with the assistance of neighborhood leaders identified earlier</p> <p>Formally establish each neighborhood association with bylaws and meet monthly</p> <p>Neighborhood associations will address issues identified by their association</p>	<p>Currently have two Neighborhood Associations up and running.</p> <p>Monthly meetings are being held in Pinehills area.</p> <p>Have made major progress on list of homes that is attached. These were identified as needing demolition or renovation. Code enforcement developed the list and is monitoring, pushing for progress. 34 sites</p>		<p>Start regular meetings with the MLK area residents.</p> <p>Meetings scheduled for April with Pinehills, MLK and Strawberry Hills areas</p>